

SESSION OF 2008

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 546

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Judiciary

Brief*

SB 546, as amended, would create the Family Dispute Resolution Fund which would be funded through a percentage of the amount credited to the State Treasury from the district court docket fee.

Background

Current law provides that certain state and local entities will receive a specified percentage of district court docket fees, "off the top", and that the balance will be credited to the State Treasury. The amount in the State Treasury is allocated on a percentage basis among a number of state agency funds.

The proponent of the bill is Judge Allen Slater, 10th Judicial District (Johnson County), on behalf of the Supreme Court's Domestic High Conflict Committee. Judge Slater testified that the fund would provide grants to local courts to offer programs and services to parties involved in high conflict domestic cases. The goal is to reduce families' dependency on the courts in resolving family-related conflicts. The programs could include high conflict education courses, high conflict parenting plans, case management, child custody evaluations, neutral exchanges sites, and other programs determined by the Kansas Supreme Court.

There was no testimony in opposition to the bill.

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

The Senate Committee on Judiciary amended the bill to change the source of the fund from a \$25.00 increase in post-decree docket fees to authorizing the fund to take 1.52 percent of the amount allocated to the State Treasury from docket fees.

The fiscal note on the bill, as introduced, indicates that passage of the bill would have a fiscal effect on members of the public who would be required to pay the additional \$25.00 in post-decree docket fees. The amendment by the Senate Committee on Judiciary would eliminate the additional docket fee.